



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: The next monthly meeting will be held on Friday 27th May at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus St., at 8 p.m.

ANZAC DAY

The attendance at the wreath laying prior to the march was pretty much below the usual number. There might have been thrity, but we are usually about fifty.

The march itself went well as far as 2/4 Battalion was concerned. Once we were out of Pitt Street, delays were non-existent. We must have made a favourable impression on the by-standers judging by their reaction, and the "eyes left" acknowledgement to our ladies' support outside Lowes again went well both with the ladies and those in the vicinity on both sides of George Street.

Prior to the march many members expressed surprise when buying tickets to the Re-Union, that the cost was only \$5. We've been told that life wasn't meant to be easy, but your Committee tries to make it a bit that was on rare occasions by a bit of subbing on the real cost, particularly when the Hon. Treasurer is not watching!

At the Re-Union Dinner we had a good attendance of country members though the overall attendance was down a little bit. Amongst the country boys were Doug Grove, Ballina; Gordon Bladen, Queensland; Jim Whitaker, Queensland; Artie Kleem, Young; Jack Huston, Canberra; Roy Denyer, Temora; Bruce Cork, Queensland; Ted Swadling, Griffith; Harold Conkey, Cootamundra; Charlie Davis, Singleton; Gordon Crisp, Umina; and of course the Mountain Boys, Ron Barber, Bob Lever, and company, and a Novocastrian here and there like Joe Bohle and Cliff Curran, but excluding Alf Carpenter who, being Senior V.P., now belongs to Sydney, although he still lives up North. Incidentally, Alf was an

excellent March Marshall as may be expected.

For the formalities of the gathering, Cec Chrystal proposed the toast to the Queen. Laurie Waterhouse read the names of the battalion members who have died over the past year. The President proposed the toast to the memory of fallen and departed comrades and John Meehan recited the ode. The President gave a short address of welcome to our visitors of which Athol suitable enlarged when proposing the toast. Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland responded and also proposed the toast to 2/4 Bn. In his response, Lt.Col. Bryce Frazer, the C.O., 4RNSWR, mentioned that that morning as he was preparing to come from Wollongong to Sydney, his son had just seen Sir Ivan on T.V. in the march and asked who he was. Bryce's reply was: "That man was one of my predecessors" and then explained further. In that he is a man well versed in Australian Military History with an emphasis on the Old and subsequent 4Bns., we were as fortunate to have him respond to the Toast to 2/4 Bn. as 4RNSWR is to have him as a C.O. His whole response reflected this interest and his pride in being C.O. 4RNSWR. An advocate of the return to the colour patch system for Australian Infantry Battalions and this is reflected in his encouragement of the wearing by his Battalion of miniature white over green colour patches on the bush hats (we called them giggle hats) of the battalion when on training exercises. Thankyou, Bryce.

Finally we would like to thank Harry Gjested and the staff of the Gallipoli Memorial Club for the excellent service enjoyed by the members. Thank you all.

THE LADIES

As mentioned previously, the ladies were in support at Lowes and there was no doubt of their colour, White and Green was most evident. And as some of the committee men were waiting for the train to go down to the Gallipoli Memorial Club to get the entry organised, a girl on the opposite platform was pointed out as Leo Lynch's daughter.

Of the supporters that couldn't attend the Dutch Village luncheon were Jenny and Don Mehiehoff, Gavin, Robyn, Christine and Steurt, Nan MacGillivray, Wilma Johnson, daughter and granddaughter.

Those who attended were - Bell Sadler, Joan Hart, Mavis Humphries, Marj. Stack, Dell Silver, Doreen Grant, Edith Turton, Vera Walsh, Molly Irvine, Heather Fox, Enid Lattimer (who looked radiant). Fi. Kesteven, Nao Chatfield, Gwen MacLennan, Joyce Waterhouse, Noni Bowman, Nina Fergusson, Joan Huston, Betty Watts, Nell Wright, Hilda Wright, Hilda Mairet, Beryl Poplin and Jenny Lynch.

A good time was had by all. Thank you, Hilda, for the report.

SKITE COLUMN

If you want to feature in this column you will have to contact the editor. Since we (at least, some of us) are getting on, there are emerging statistics which may be of interest to our "2/4 Bn. Family". And don't forget that we are a family of the most unique kind.

Your ever-alert and thought creating editor, while awaiting the

responses from you and yours, can only begin with the limited knowledge of certain facts gleaned from odd (and sometimes very odd) conversations with members of our "family". To start:-

GRANDCHILDREN STAKES: (An outlet for those who had nothing to do with it anyway!!)

The Youngs: Five at the last count, but that was two years ago.

The Foxes: Four. ("Poppy Ted" has the whip out to beat the Youngs if no one else.)

The Chrystals: Eight or Nine. Cec and Phil are overseas, and we can't confirm at this stage.

The Lindsays: number unsure. Can't confirm as Alan and Gloria are also in foreign parts.

The MacLennans: Four. But Greg and Jane have just started.

Vera Provians: Six. One girl, and the rest noisy!!

There must be others. Perhaps the Lynches. Bound to enter at short odds.

LATE STARTERS "WAIT" FOR AGE: (A pretty shy lot who have led secluded lives!!)

"Cades": Three. Aged from 12 to 16 years. All scrappers!!

Any more starters, Gattenhofs or Raes maybe?? We can't have a one-horse race.

GERIATRIC'S "GOLDEN OLDIES" CANTER: (This race starts half-way around the track which gives the starters time to reminisce before and during the race if so inclined. First past the post doesn't necessarily win.)

41 years of Wedded Bliss: George & Helen Martin ("Long Tack" & Helen.)

Ted and Heather Fox ("Brer" and Heather)

WELFARE REPORT.

CONCORD.

NX11562, Roland Hill. Discharged.

NX5904, W.H. Newth. Bill was in for bowel tests. Result was all clear. Now discharged.

NX11842, R. Carter, Ward 5. He was not seen. When Slim called he had been discharged.

Nx14111, N. Shaylor, Ward 7. Norm ("A" Coy) is seriously ill, and is to have ray treatment. Nevertheless he is quite bright and cheerful.

NX5162, T. Dawson. Tom had a hip operation which was successful. Now at home.

Sighted at Concord was Esca Riordan. He was down for a hearing aid. Won't be able to talk about him behind his back, now. Beb was down with him but both were off to Kempsey next morning. Both Well.

NX9846, C.F. Powers, Ward 7. Slim was admitted 22nd April with a respiratory problem. Has been having oxygen and they are taking tests. At the time of writing results not known.

ROYAL NORTH SHORE.

NX9693, W. Parry. Bill was admitted to hospital 12 April and discharged on 21st. He is progressing satisfactorily, but will have to take itn easy for quite a while. Hope by the time you read this you will be well on the way to recovery, Bill.

FIRST 4TH, AT CONCORD.

6798, R. Scouller. In with throat and back problems.

6231, J.M. Brunton, Ward 630. Jim, 89 years young is from Bega. Has a poisoned thumb, the result of an argument with barbed wire. Had been transfedred from Lady Dsvidson, where he was being fitted for a new leg. Wished to be remembered to Bill Parry, who had seen him there.

LAST POST.

NX5199, T.C. Saunders. Tom died 31st March at Royal North Shore Hospital.

VX102143, J.J. Kenna. Jack "Bluey" died 6th April. Marj Kenna wrote to President Ted.Fox. Bill Neave represented the Association at the funeral.

NX170006 G. Willoughby. Phil Cross rang Jim Robin from Bathurst informing of the death of George on 10th April. Phil and Bill Yow attended the funeral.

Geoff Hall, one time Orderly Room Corporal. Geoff died 13th February. Information from Harold Conkey by letter and Mickey Allerdice by phone. Allan Hughes passed away 5th April. Those of the Northern Rivers area who attended the funeral were: John Hughes (brother), Mel McInnes, Laurie Winkler, Tim Lamont, Max Nierney, Jack Hughes (Southport, Q.) Ron Ellem, Ian Wallwork, Harry Whitman, Hugh Whittleton, Doug Stebbing, Jack Lister, Bob Gerdiner, Fred Varley, Eddie Miller, Doug Grove, Roy Andrews, Bill Scheaffe, Tom Clarke and Allan Kirk. A very credit-able representation of 2/4 Bn. at the funeral of a fine man. Information supplied by Allan Kirk, V.P. Northern Rivers. Thankyou, Allan. Harold Cox. Laurie McCosker informs that Harold has passed away since our last report on his health. Laurie has sent the Association's condolences to Harold's widow.

NX 2025, R.C. Dean (from Reveille)

NX1981, J. Flood. " "

NX18112, W.J. Ryan " "

NX13515, G.E. Whitby " "

LEST WE FORGET

Harry Wright for Bill Parry.

THE SOUTHPORT CONTRY RE-UNION.

FROM LAURIE MCCOSKER:

We intend having a short march to the Memorial outside the Southport R.S.L. The dinner will be held at the R.S.L. on Saturday night and a Smorgasborg Luncheon on the Sunday.

"The accommodation will be at Motel and/or Hotel within walking distance of the Club and Caravan Parks slightly further afield.

"When bookings are made please state type of accommodation, date of arrival and departure.

Early bookings would be appreciated.

"Regards, Laurie".

And on the Sydney and all points north front. Who wants to be in on the bus transport? It is not a private bus, we must make bookings if only to keep us all together. See March W.O.G. for timetables or ring or write to Laurie Waterhouse. Please don't diddle around with your accommodation bookings or bus reservations. Get organised and give the organisers a go!!

AND PLEASE SEND \$10 PER HEAD FOR ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS AT SOUTHPORT. LAURIE McCOSKER'S ADDRESS IS ON THE FRONT OF THIS W.O.G.

COCK'S COLUMN

At the Anzac Day march and re-union one of the first I met was Sir Ivan with his pleasant smile and hearty handshake. Then as they came: Des and Noel Finch, Roy & Mrs. Ebzery of Woolahra. Roy met Noel Howell recently. I also met Ferdy Pegg and was sorry to hear that Gwen is ill and could not march with her unit, 2/1 AGH. We wish you a speedy recovery, Gwen.

Was pleased to see Ted Swadling from Griffith. Ted looks younger than ever. He reports that Fred Driscoll has been transferred from Griffith to the War Veterans' Home at Yass.

Leo Lynch had a yarn to Clive Brown, also Mick Green, and Roy Kingsley. Leo said that Pom Wallace has lost a lot of weight and is down to a mere 16 stone. Also met, Sid Young, a cousin of Pom's, who is now living up there. Leo had also met Sid Phillips.

Eric Taynton lives at Sylvania Waters. Enlisted in Molong and would like to year news of Les Platts who came from Bombala.

Alf Carpenter reports that Bully Hayes is keeping well and is having a 70th Brithday Party at his place, 51 Sparks St., Georgetown on Saturday 28th May, and would be glad to see any of his old mates. John, Margaret and Bonnie Rae, Cliff Curran and Ailene, George and Heather Mitchell, Joe and Gwen Bohle and the Newcastle widows are all O.K. and attend regular monthly get-togethers. The May monthly meeting will be held at Bully Hayes' place on the occasion of his birthday.

John Whitelaw, Bankstown, often sees Wally Lambourne and Charlie Roach.

Roy "Rocky" Denyer, Temora, said that Arthur Harradine and Bill Wilson are O.K. Nick Allerdice and Ted Burbidge, with their wives, called to visit them.

Doug Grove saw Rags Butler. Sorry to hear that Ray is not enjoying good health.

Phil Cross Phoned in news of George Willoughby's funeral and he also asked of news of Bill Parry. I told him Bill was in R.N.S. Hospital. I had rung Mrs. Parry and was told that Bill was improving.

Had the pleasure of meeting Bob Ferguson in a most unpleasant place, the Taxation Office. Bob, who has retired, looked really well, and hoped to see us on Anzac Day, which he did..

Had a ring from Dick Pinson. Sorry to relate that wife Rene is not enjoying good health. Dick had a Wagga paper with an article in it that Ann, second daughter of Max and Pay Sydenham was married last week in Wagga. We wish them both every happiness. A print of Bruce Stewart was in the same paper. Who would want to see that? Hi, Bruce, all the best, mate.

Met Jerry Vincent at Eastwood. He looks O.K. and is very solid and has retired from the Water Board. He asked after many of the boys and one of the first was Dasher. I said I had a card from him recently. Many of those he asked after have passed on.

WEARING OF PRIVATE MEDALS.

Because of several inquiries on Anzac Day and at the request of the President, we publish the following, part of a circular from the R.S.L. issued earlier in the year. "The question of Private Medals has been raised from time to time, and quoted below are extracts from Government Departments concerned on this subject, which is also League Standing Policy and Standing Orders.

"As you will be aware, Government house is the authority on the wearing of insignia. We are, however, pleased to advise that only medals and decorations awarded and approved by Her Majesty The Queen, may be worn on the left breast."

A PERSONAL OPINION.

Regarding the above, there is quite a bit more of this pompous claptrap in the screed. However, some facts:-

The Governments (British and Australian) that got us into the unequal struggles of Greece and Crete made no special recognition of our efforts. A Greek Government of 40 years later DID, unsolicited and free and with ceremony and with thanks!

From our governments the 1939-45 star was sufficient recognition for this campaign as it was also for the services of the Jerusalem Detention Barracks Guards, necessary though their jobs may have been.

Like many other Greece Anzac Corps members I am proud to wear the Greek and 2/4Bn. Medals with those approved and recognised by his late Majesty, King George VI and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

And pooh to the Whitehall Warriors and all else who were involved in this iniquitous oversight.

PETER CADE

SITREPS

Mystery of the Month: President Ted received a "Card Only" letter addressed to Mrs. Glen Smith, C/- Ted Fox etc. and the only identification was the Adelaide postmark on the envelope. The "despatch" was enclosed in another envelope and sent to Glen at 52 Fairlight St., Fairlight. Ted was intrigued as to who was the sender (so is the editor) and hopes to be enlightened by Blah on Anzac Day.

Harold Conkey writes from Cootamundra informing us of the death of Geoff Hall - Orderly Room Corporal, B. Coy. "He apparently took ill a couple of months prior to Christmas and after several treatments was returned to Manilla where he died ten days later on Feb. 13th. He was one month short of his 63rd Birthday.

"I had written to him after inquiring through White Over Green of his whereabouts, and although he got my letter and was pleased to hear from me, died before being able to answer. His wife Jean wrote instead and sent a few shaps Geoff had in his keeping and included in these were Bluey Ashcroft, Eddie Wilson, Jack White, Col. Smith, Bluey Viles, Ken Kesteven, Jack Morwitch, Teddy Hopkins, Butch Fagen, Bruce Stewart and Mac MacDougall."

Harold sends cheers to all. Thanks, Harold.

At a recent Committee Meeting someone mentioned Perc. Picacity. All present looked stunned, and no wonder, as reference to the Bn. History later turned up Cassidy and Perdisa but no Picacity. Wasn't even in the Battalion!! No wonder meetings bog down!

Missed from the last W.O.G. was the news gleaned from a letter from Vera Provians who reports that Bill Mitchell is now at Gendara and also that the Elliotts of Darwin are building on the Sunshine Coast. Also reports Selby Dean's departure for New Zealand. (The first person to sight Selby on his return is requested to nail him to something immovable. Laurie and Bob Ferguson desire a pow-wow.) Norm MacInture is not bad. His newly air-conditioned flat helps a lot. Vera doesn't really need W.O.G. to keep her up to date with the Sydney Scene. She and Hilda Wright have a tic-tac system going via Telecom and Aust. Post that keeps them both posted of the other scene.

A letter from Lily Deacon regarding the family in Zimbabwe. Regardless of all we hear the kids have enjoyed their stay working for the Education Department there and are sorry to leave. There is not enough space to give the full extent of the travels of these two young people, but Pater and Gwen, almost at the end of their contract in Zimbabwe, are planning to charge off to South America (many countries), the Carribean countries, and then the wilds of the U.S.A. (New York etc.). Bet that they make it with flying colours and trail of friends as they pass through. Lily didn't mention Dasher. He was probably rolling cannon balls along a green sward while Lily does all the communicating. Thanks Lily, for the report.

Too late to get into the Skite Column, but Claude and Nan Raymond's grandson, Mark Barrett of South Australia became the Australian Gold Medalist for High Jumping Championships recently. He is at the Institute of Sport, Canberra. As it was held in Melbourne, no doubt proud grandparents were there to cheer him on.

Our old Came ier friend Harold Smith was down from Bourke on Anzac Day. He is pushing 88 in the shade and we hear on the local scene that he is chasing the local matrons around the housie games in Bourke and his camel is well trained for the Anzac Day March (see S.M. Herald

letters). In the meantime, he will race any of us around the block and will be slowed down only by a well stacked mini-skirt.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Letter 1: from South Australia, and it is from the one and only "Robbie". He writes to explain a recent B-B-Q. day given to the lads of the 19th Bde. by Peter and Pat Denver. "Robbie" was saying the presence of wives had a very steadying effect on the party, nevertheless the party was quite a thing, the steaks being most enjoyable. Robbie was most high with his praise at the way he was well looked after by George Walton and his good wife Pat, transporting him to the Denver's abode. Rest assured, Robbie, that when we travel to Adelaide, we will look you up. Good health!

Letter 2: From that "old Camelier" Harold Smith. I take my hat off to this fine old digger of 1914-18 vintage, for his ability, at his ripe old age, to pen such an interesting letter. I am giving your letter to the Editor, Peter, so that he can use it in W.O.G. Harold puts us chaps to shame the way he gets around, he goes up to Cunnamulla twice a year to play Bowls in the Annual Tournament and Diggers' Day. Then he goes to Charleville, also finds time to get to Brisbane; has a good ey for the girls there at the Scarborough Art Union Office, and I think they spoil Harold a bit. Said he was very doubtful if he would march on Anzac Day. Probably be there to watch, and offer moral support to us as we go by. By the time you read this Harold, Anzac Day will have been and gone. Once again, thank you Harold, for a fine piece of literary art. Good luck and good health to you.

Letter 3: from Ken Richardson, and he is writing to let me know he is giving the life of suburbia away, and has moved up to the central coast, to Budgewoi. The way they are leaving the city and suburbs, there won't be anyone left here soon!! So anyone looking for Ken, that's where you will find him, up at Budgewoi. Hope you enjoy it Ken and good luck!

Letter 4: From Lennie Bloomfield, A Coy., sending in a cheque to keep Allen happy. Lennie is having a run of bad health at the moment, but is hoping it won't stop him getting to the Anzac Day Re-Union. You can't keep a good bloke down, we know you will make it Lennie. Thanks for the message of goodwill.

A couple of thankyou cards have been received, one from the family of the late Mrs. Ellen Fryer, who was the sister of the late "Cheeky" Charlie, and a very staunch supporter of the Association. The Second one was from Mrs. Joyce Luck, whose husband passed away in February this year. Included was a letter of appreciation for the enjoyment Bill got out of the Association with the hope that she will continue to receive W.O.G.

By the way:-- If you see a yellow car travelling around with the number plate NX5555, it belongs to Norm Aubeson of Merrylands. Norm called in to see me last week to pick up his tie, and before he left he showed me the plates. Till next month, all the best of health to one and all.

Laurie Waterhouse,

Hon. Secretary.